United Nations A/56/185–S/2001/699

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 July 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Items 53 and 99 of the provisional agenda*

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Letter dated 16 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It saddens me to have to convey to you the alarming statements made by Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel, on 10 July 2001 concerning the expansion of Israeli settlement activity in the territory of the occupied Syrian Golan.

At the dedication of a centre for studies at the Katzrin settlement in the Golan, Sharon said that developing the Golan, increasing the Jewish population and bringing in new residents would alone be capable of transforming settlement in the Golan into an irreversible reality. Sharon characterized Israeli settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan as one of the most beautiful achievements and successes in the history of Zionism.

News agencies have also reported that the Israeli Government has announced the opening of bidding for the construction of 100 dwellings and 220 tourist cabins in the occupied Syrian Golan. This announcement was made in the context of a methodical Israeli plan that has been in place since the occupation of the Golan in 1967 and has the goal of taking possession of all the land in order to build new settlements, expand the existing colonies and bring in more settlers so as to make the settlement of the Golan a fait accompli, as was acknowledged by Ariel Sharon in the statements indicated above.

The General Assembly has condemned the Israeli policies and practices of settlement, annexation and Golan. The occupation, and it does so in the resolutions it adopts every year on the occupied Syrian most recent of these are resolutions 55/51 and 55/134, in which the Assembly expresses the position of the international community in rejecting these practices. In its resolution 497 (1981) the Security

* A/56/150.

01-45879 (E) 170701 180701

Council rejects Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan and decides that it is null and void and without international legal effect.

The Israeli practices in question indicate unprecedented defiance of the Charter of the United Nations, of the relevant resolutions of the Organization, of the supremacy of international law and international humanitarian law, and of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which regards settlement activity as a war crime.

As is acknowledged by the international community, the Syrian Arab Republic has made every possible effort for the success of the peace process in the Middle East based on the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace. It affirms that the occupied Golan is Syrian territory that cannot be relinquished and that Israel is required by the resolutions that embody international legitimacy to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. Syria regards the Israeli position as stated by Sharon, namely that Israel will continue to build and expand its colonies in the occupied Arab territories, as another dangerous escalation of the situation in the region and as proof that Sharon's Government has decided to kill the peace process and to bury the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic has been committed to striving for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and it affirms that Israel's continued defiance of the will of the international community, international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations will lead to a dangerous escalation of the situation in the region. The Syrian Arab Republic requests the Secretary-General to use his authority under the Charter to take the necessary measures to induce Israel to halt forthwith its settlement activities in the Golan in accordance with the aforesaid resolution 497 (1981).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 53 and 99 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/185–S/2001/699*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
8 August 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Items 53 and 99 of the provisional agenda**

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

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Letter dated 16 July 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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News agencies have also reported that the Israeli Government has announced the opening of bidding for the construction of 100 dwellings and 220 tourist cabins in the occupied Syrian Golan. This announcement was made in the context of a methodical Israeli plan that has been in place since the occupation of the Golan in 1967 and has the goal of taking possession of all the land in order to build new settlements, expand the existing colonies and bring in more settlers so as to make the settlement of the Golan a fait accompli, as was acknowledged by Ariel Sharon in the statements indicated above.

The General Assembly has condemned the Israeli policies and practices of settlement, annexation and occupation, and it does so in the resolutions it adopts every year on the occupied Syrian Golan. The most recent of these are resolutions 55/51 and 55/134, in which the Assembly expresses the position of the international community in rejecting these practices. In its resolution 497 (1981) the Security

* Reissued for technical reasons.
** A/56/150.

01-45879* (E) 080801 080801

Council rejects Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan and decides that it is null and void and without international legal effect.

The Israeli practices in question indicate unprecedented defiance of the Charter of the United Nations, of the relevant resolutions of the Organization, of the supremacy of international law and international humanitarian law, and of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which regards settlement activity as a war crime.

As is acknowledged by the international community, the Syrian Arab Republic has made every possible effort for the success of the peace process in the Middle East based on the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace. It affirms that the occupied Golan is Syrian territory that cannot be relinquished and that Israel is required by the resolutions that embody international legitimacy to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. Syria regards the Israeli position as stated by Sharon, namely that Israel will continue to build and expand its colonies in the occupied Arab territories, as another dangerous escalation of the situation in the region and as proof that Sharon's Government has decided to kill the peace process and to bury the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Syrian Arab Republic has been committed to striving for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and it affirms that Israel's continued defiance of the will of the international community, international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations will lead to a dangerous escalation of the situation in the region. The Syrian Arab Republic requests the Secretary-General to use his authority under the Charter to take the necessary measures to induce Israel to halt forthwith its settlement activities in the Golan in accordance with the aforesaid resolution 497 (1981).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 53 and 99 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/186

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 July 2001
English
Original: English and Russian

Fifty-sixth session
Item 48 of the provisional agenda*
The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict

Letter dated 13 July 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the final communiqué of the Moscow meeting held on 3 and 4 July 2001 in the framework of the Kimberley Process on "conflict" diamonds (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were to be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 48 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session.

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrach **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

* A/56/150.

01-46056 (E) 180701

Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2001 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Meeting on the Kimberley Process, held in Moscow on 3 and 4 July 2001

Final communiqué

All participants agreed that significant progress was made in identifying the essential elements of a system to combat conflict diamonds. The participants further expected to be able to present to the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly the report on progress required from the Kimberley Process.

On 3 and 4 July 2001, the Kimberley Process met in plenary session in Moscow. Representatives of 34 Governments, the European Commission, as well as representatives of the international diamond industry, notably the World Diamond Council (WDC), and non-governmental organizations took part in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to define minimum acceptable standards for an international system of certification of rough diamonds, consistent with the mandate set out in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/56 of 1 December 2000.

The Kimberley Process Task Force met on 2 July in preparation for the plenary session. The Task Force considered a framework paper outlining proposed essential elements of the envisaged system of certification. The Task Force also welcomed the results of the global survey on import and export controls relating to the trade in rough diamonds and took note of several discussion papers prepared in response to the decisions taken at the previous Kimberley Process meeting in Brussels, in April 2001.

Participants at the plenary agreed in principle on the basic elements of an international system for certification of rough diamonds. These elements will be elaborated further in preparation for the next meeting of the Kimberley Process. This will include the format and content of certificates accompanying rough diamonds, plus the minimum standards which both support those certificates and underpin the whole system.

The Russian Federation presented a model certificate and container sample for storing and transporting of rough diamonds that might be used within the framework of the international scheme being developed, and Guinea presented its Certificate of Origin, which was introduced on 18 June 2001.

The importance of putting in place adequate national monitoring and control systems to promote transparency and accountability was agreed upon. The progress achieved in implementing the sanctions regimes in Angola and Sierra Leone was welcomed.

Participants welcomed proposals from the World Diamond Council for a system of industry self-regulation, based on a chain of warranties. Wherever possible these warranties would be legally endorsed by the respective Governments. It was recognized that such a system of self-regulation would form an integral part of the overall certification scheme.

Based on the achievements of the Moscow plenary meeting, the Kimberley Process is able to proceed with the further definition and refinement of detailed proposals for the envisaged certification scheme. The next meeting of the Kimberley Process is scheduled to take place in London in September 2001.